

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE FONMIN OHIRA AUGUST 15 REVIEW OF
NEW US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

SUMMARY: FONMIN OHIRA APPEARED BEFORE JAPAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH COUNCIL AUGUST 15 TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS IN RECENT US-JAPAN SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO KISSINGER CONCEPT OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND US-JAPAN COOPERATION TO DEVELOP ENERGY RESOURCES. OHIRA INDICATED GOJ DESIRE TO MOVE FOREARD POSITIVELY IN CONSULTATIONS WITH US TO CLARIFY POSSIBLE SUBSTANCE OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. PRESS COVERAGE, WHILE SPOTTY AND SELECTIVE, OFFERS ONLY RECORD OF LARGELY EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS BY FONMIN. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN MASAYOSHI OHIRA ADDRESSED LUNCHEON MEETING OF JAPAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH COUNCIL AT KEIDANREN HALL AUGUST 15 ON SUBJECT QTE NEW US-JAPAN RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL SITUATION UNQTE.

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HE RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS. FOLLOWING IS REVIEW OF PRESS COVERAGE NEXT MORNING, WHICH VARIED CONSIDERABLY IN DEPTH AND TONE OF TREATMENT.

2. MAINICHI AND TOKYO SHIMBUN (BOTH PAGE 2) DID THOUGHTFUL PIECES DEALING WITH OHIRA HANDLING OF QUESTION HOW JAPAN COULD PARTICIPATE IN KISSINGER ATLANTIC CHARTER CONCEPT. TOKYO SHIMBUN SOUNDED MORE RECEPTIVE TO CONCEPT IN STATING THAT OHIRA HAD EXPRESSED NEW VIEW THAT JAPAN MIGHT PARTICIPATE WITHOUT UNDUE CONCERN ABOUT ECONOMIC-MILITARY LINKAGE, PROVIDED US UNDERSTANDS THAT MILITARY BASES JAPAN PROVIDES US UNDER SECURITY TREATY REPRESENT ONE FORM OF MILITARY COOPERATION. TOKYO SHIMBUN INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT GOJ WISHES TO PARTICIPATE. REPORTING THAT PRESIDENT NIXON MADE STRONG REQUEST THAT JAPAN DO SO DURING RECENT WASHINGTON SUMMIT, TOKYO SHIMBUN CONCLUDED THAT OHIRA RESPONSE HINTS AT DIRECTION TO BE TAKEN IN CONSULTATIONS WITH KISSINGER ON CONDITIONS FOR JAPANESE PARTICIPATION.

3. MAINICHI, ON OTHER HAND, NOTED INHERENT JAPANESE CAUTION ABOUT MILITARY COOPERATION BECAUSE OF CONSTITUTION AND PUBLIC POLICY OF LIMITING DEFENSE CAPABILITY. WHILE IT REPORTED THAT OHIRA RESPONSE SHOWED DEEP INTEREST OF GOJ IN KISSINGER CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING NEW PRINCIPLES FOR POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION AMONG FREE NATIONS, MAINICHI INTERPRETED OHIRA RESPONSE TO SUGGEST THAT BEST JAPAN COULD DO IN MILITARY ASPECT IS TO GUARANTEE US RETENTION OF BASES IN JAPAN UNDER MUTUAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

4. IN LENGTHY SUMMARY OF OHIRA REMARKS MAINICHI REPORTED FONMIN RESPONSE THAT JAPAN COULD NOT ACCEPT LINKAGE WITH EUROPE IN SECURITY AREA, AND COULD NEITHER SHARE DEFENSE COSTS NOR MOBILIZE TROOPS TO SEND OVERSEAS BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL SENSITIVITY. MAINICHI QUOTED OHIRA DENIAL OF REPORTS THAT JAPAN PROMISED FULL PARTICIPATION IN KISSINGER CONCEPT DURING RECENT SUMMIT, AND VIS CLARIFICATION THAT BOTH LEADERS AGREED ONLY TO CONSULT ON POSSIBLE MODALITIES OF LINKAGE.

5. MAINICHI ALSO REPORTED OHIRA REMARKS THAT US-JAPAN RELATIONS ARE CLOSE AND DESTINED TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY EACH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SIDE, AND THAT CONTINUED CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH US IS ESSENTIAL FOR JAPAN TO MAINTAIN VIABLE DIPLOMATIC POLICY VIS-A-VIS SOVIET UNION.

6. TOKYO SHIMBUN ADDED COMMENT THAT KISSINGER CONCEPT ALSO STRESSES COOPERATION AMONG ALLIES IN TRADE, MONETARY AND ENERGY MATTERS. IT QUOTED OHIRA RESPONSE THAT BOTH LEADERS IN RECENT WASHINGTON SUMMIT NOT ONLY CONFIRMED THAT JAPAN WOULD COOPERATE POSITIVELY IN ENERGY MATTERS, BUT ALSO AGREED ON MODALITIES TO DO SO, FOR EXAMPLE, JOINT US-JAPAN DEVELOPMENT OF THIRD COUNTRY (SIBERIA) ENERGY RESOURCES, CONSULTATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM WITHIN OECD TO

PROVIDE FOR ACCOMODATION ON OIL, US-JAPAN JOINT VENTURE IN URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND US-JAPAN JOINT R&D OF NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY AND POLLUTION ABATEMENT TECHNOLOGY.

7. YOMIURI (PAGE 9) DEALT ONLY WITH RESOURCES AND FOOD ASPECTS OF REMARKS, NOTING OHIRA STATEMENT THAT BOTH LEADERS AGREED IN RECENT WASHINGTON SUMMIT TO COOPERATE TO ENSURE STABLE SUPPLY OF ENERGY AND FOOD RESOURCES. YOMIURI COMMENTED THAT OHIRA INDICATED FOR FIRST TIME THAT US-JAPAN COOPERATION IS PIVOT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIAN ENERGY RESOURCES.

8. ONLY YOMIURI REPORTED THAT GOJ WOULD BUDGET FOR R&D COSTS FOR JOINT US-JAPAN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ENERGY RESOURCES, AND THAT JAPAN AGREED AT SUMMIT TO COOPERATE WITH US TO SECURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM NECESSARY TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR ENERGY, EVEN IF THIRD COUNTRIES SHOULD OFFER TO MAKE SUPPLY AVAILABLE. OHIRA ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT THIRD COUNTRY HAS MADE SUCH OFFER, BUT HAS NOT PROVIDED DATA ON QUANTITY AVAILABLE, ALSO QUOTED.

9. YOMIURI ALSO REPORTED OHIRA STATEMENT THAT GOJ WOULD STUDY HANDLING OF TYUMENI OIL PROJECT WHEN BUSINESS FIRMS INVOLVED CONCLUDE OVERALL AGREEMENT ON TERMS AND SECURE BANK LOAN FUNDING FOR PROJECT, WHICH STAGE NOT YET REACHED. HOWEVER, OHIRA REPORTED TO HAVE ENDORSED DESIRABILITY OF PARTICIPATION BY US FIRMS, AND TO HAVE STATED THAT GOJ WOULD STUDY ITS POSITION ON ASSUMPTION THAT US FIRMS WOULD TAKE PART.

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10. OHIRA WARNING THAT JAPAN'S DIPLOMACY TOWARD SOVIET UNION AND PRC WOULD BE RENDERED INEFFECTIVE SHOULD JAPAN AND US FAIL TO ACHIEVE QTE MORE MATURE RELATIONSHIP UNQTE REPORTED ONLY BY YOMIURI.

11. NIHON KEIZAI (PAGE 2) REPORTED OHIRA STATEMENT THAT US AND JAPAN AGREED IN RECENT WASHINGTON SUMMIT TO COOPERATE IN DEVELOPING ENERGY RESOURCES, INCLUDING SIBERIA, AND TO DEVELOP SYSTEM WITHIN OECD TO DEAL WITH WORLD-WIDE OIL CRISIS. NIHON KEIZAI ALSO REPORTED OHIRA STATEMENT THAT JAPAN AGREED AT SUMMIT TO TRY TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR COOPERATION AMONG ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL NATIONS IN NEW PERIOD, BUT HAD NOT ACCEPTED KISSINGER CONCEPT.

12. ASAHI (PAGE 2) SLIGHTED FONMIN PRESENTATION, REPORTING VERY BRIEFLY ONLY THAT OHIRA SAID GOJ NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BECAUSE IT LACKS ADEQUATE INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.

13. SANKEI (PAGE 2) IGNORED ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF REMARKS

TO REPORT BRIEFLY OHIRA DENIAL THAT JAPAN ACCEPTED KISSINGER
CONCEPT DURING RECENT SUMMIT, AND HIS CLARIFICATION THAT
JAPAN ONLY PROMISED TO CONSULT WITH US.

14. COMMENT: OHIRA HAS MADE POSITIVE EFFORT TO BEGIN
DEVELOPING CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF POSITIVE GOJ CONSIDERATION
OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, BUT MAGNITUDE OF TASK EVIDENT
IN SPOTTY AND SELECTIVE COVERAGE GIVEN HIS AUGUST 15
APPEARANCE BEFORE BLUE-RIBBON BUSINESS LEADER GROUP HEADED
BY HOST KOGORO UEMURA, CHAIRMAN OF KEIDANREN. OHIRA APPEARS
TO BE KEEPING DOOR OPEN TO POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY JAPAN IN
ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DECLARATION FROM WHICH IT COULD BENEFIT
WITHOUT ACCEPTING MILITARY LINKAGE WHICH VIEWED WITH DEEP
SUSPICION IN JAPAN. AS STARTER, OHIRA HAS ASKED WHETHER
US COULD CONSIDER JAPAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL SECURITY
UNDER PRESENT US-JAPAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AN ADEQUATE
ENTRANCE FEE.
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